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For the National Era.

THE SOUTHERN PLATFORM;

OR,

MANUAL OF SOUTHERN SENTIMENT ON THE

SUBJECT OF SLAVERY.

Being a Compilation from the Writings of

Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and others,

which contain the opinions of the

Federal and State Legislatures which framed

and ratified the Constitution of the United

States—these which were the basis of the

debate in the Virginia Legislature in 1829;

with various other letters, judicial decisions, &c.

BY DANIEL R. GOODLOE, OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ELLIOTT'S DEBATES—VOL. II.

Debates in Virginia State Congress called to

ratify the Constitution—Continued.

Mr. Henry insisted that the insertion of

these restrictions on Congress was a plain

assumption that Congress should exercise pow-

ers by implication. The gentleman had

admitted that Congress could have interdicted

the African trade, were it not for this restriction.

If, so the position having been expressed,

by delegated, must be obtained by implication.

He demanded, where, then, was his doctrine

of reserved rights? He wished for negative

clauses, to prevent them from assuming any

power but those expressly given. He asked

why it was omitted to secure that property

in slaves which we hold now? He feared its

omission was done with design. They might

lay such heavy taxes on the property as to

encompass it, and then the Southern States

would be the only sufferers. His opinion was

confirmed by the mode of laying money. Con-

gress, he observed, had power to lay taxes on

taxes, imports, and excises, and to impose (or duties)

and excises were to be uniform. But this uni-

formity did not extend to taxes. This might

compel the Southern States to liberate their

slaves, or to pay the taxes. He wished to be

guarded. He considered the clause which

had been added by the gentleman as a security

for this property, as no security at all. It

was no more than a runaway negro could

be taken up in Maryland or New York. This

could not prevent Congress from inter-

fering with that property, by laying a grievous

and enormous tax on it, so as to compel owners

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When they were bound to defend the whole

country, they might be a disadvantage for them

to confederate.

These were his arguments. This policy of

guarding against political inconveniences, by

submitting a small part of the country to op-

pose the Government, and subjecting the ma-

jority to a small minority, is fallacious. In

some cases, it may be good; in others, it may

be bad. In all cases, it puts it in the power

of the minority to decide a question which con-

cerns the majority.

I was struck with surprise when I heard him

express himself alarmed with respect to the

omnipotence of slaves. Let me ask, if they

should attempt it, if it will not be as an

usurpation of power? There is no power to

warrant it, in that paper. If there be, I know

it not. But why should it be done? Says the

gentleman, the gentleman, for the general welfare,

it will infuse strength into our system. Can

any member of this committee suppose that it

will increase our strength? Can any one be-

lieve that the threat of reasoning and giving

into a measure which will strip them of their

property, discourage and alienate the affections

of five-fifteenths of the Union? Why I believe

such an idea never entered the mind of a dem-

agogue, nor do I believe it ever will, unless it

will enter into the heads of those gentlemen

who attribute unwarranted suspicions for rea-

sons.—Page 42.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

[FROM PUTNAM'S MAGAZINE—BY PERMISSION.]

GENERAL OGLE—A CHARACTER.

BY DR. WILLIAM EIDER, OF PHILADELPHIA.

If any questions the safety of a logic so in-

coherent, he has yet to learn the virtue which

the slave should be living. He has yet to

learn that the best way is as good as any; for,

when I was a boy, I discovered that thought

less than the lightness of the twist which

the slave should be living. He has yet to

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when I was a boy, I discovered that thought

them, as so many ring-bellows, and

they are not to be trusted, by the Oper-

ation. (Here Bill, turn up a clean tumbler, and

give me a drink of water.)

I was among these grand old hills, my sweet

old-timer, before the dawn of day, you were

born, and, snoring and snoring, did you not

detect any humbug in me? If you did not

with it, I'm so tired of barking that I would

like a bite. Try your teeth in this tough old

side, my dear old-timer. These hills, my dear

old-timer, would make you as drunk as blazes for

the rest of your lives, and give you the first

peep of glory that ever opened upon your bon-

net. The fall of the dead are buried with them.

They were not worth minding then, nor

remembering now; but didn't I tell you re-

spectable faddies that they were making folk

of themselves in the whiskey invention? It

Blackguardism in Democracy! When Wash-

ington came to Bedford with the army, the Al-

legany mountain rocked under his footsteps

and the diminutive little manikin that danced

and danced in the air, and the little manikin

ty-pole in the diamond over there, trembled in

their shoes till you could hear their toe-nails

jingle. I was a Democrat—a Jeffersonian Dem-

ocrat—then, and I was a Democrat now, and I

am a Democrat now, and I am a Democrat now,

and I am a Democrat now, and I am a Democ-

agogue, a coward, or a broad-mouthed Con-

stitution against my country, its laws, and the

Constitution.

Our grandmothers can tell you what a

rumpus the name makes raised around me in

the first wagon-road made over the mountains

to Pittsburgh. It would break up the pack-

horse men, fore and the tavern-keepers, and

the whole of the country would be in a rumpus

on could carry as much salt, bar-horn, and

brandy, from Baltimore, as a whole caravan of

half-starved mountain ponies. But I told them

that, that of all people in the world, fools have

the least sense, and I was right. I learned that

the best way is as good as any; for, when I

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